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DB=PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; PLUR=YES; OP=OR

L8	('6070761')[ABPN1,NRPN,PN,TBAN,WKU]	2	L8
L7	l1 and (prescription near2 fill$ or prescription near2 dispens$)	8	L7
L6	l1 and prescription	30	L6
L5	l1 and perscription	0	L5
L4	l1 and (perscription near2 filling or perscription near2 dispensing)	0	L4
L3	L2 and server	12	L3
L2	L1 and client	17	L2
L1	(online or on-line or internet or network) same pharmaceutical same administration	189	L1

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Development of an operational medical network (MEDNE˙

Ghassemi, H. Wunnava, S.
Dept. of Electr. & Comput. Eng., Florida Int. Univ., Miami, FL, USA;

Abstract

This investigation describes the development of a new fault tolerant medical network (ME
on the existing public switch telephone network (PSTN), integrated services digital netwo
internetworking (Internet). This research includes the original design, development and te
hardware and software interfaces to provide a complete medical network model. MEDNE
patient, the hospital, the medical lab, and the pharmacy for near real time and fault tolera
medical information the MEDNET model includes the following modules: central databas
access, and communication interface. This work proves that medical images and data ca
between healthcare providers which are not geographically adjacent, in a cost effective, t
manner

Index Terms
Inspec
  Controlled Indexing
  ISDN Internet biomedical imaging fault tolerant computing health care intel
  medical information systems network interfaces software engineering switchi
  telephone networks

  Non-controlled Indexing
  ISDN Internet MEDNET PSTN central database server communication inte
  design development fault tolerant medical network hardware interfaces heal
  providers integrated services digital network internetworking medical data m
  images medical information exchange operational medical network model pu
  telephone network remote client access software interfaces testing

Author Keywords
Not Available

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IEE JNL	IEE Journal or Magazine
IEEE CNF	IEEE Conference Proceeding
IEE CNF	IEE Conference Proceeding
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Leading Home Healthcare Provider Uses Forte to Build and Integrate Applications to Support Business Growth.
PR Newswire , p 8795
Sept 28 , 1998   ·
Language: English   **Record Type:** Fulltext
Document Type: Newswire ; Trade
Word Count: 610

Text:

Olsten Health Services' New System Improves

 Divisions' Efficiency and Cashflow
        OAKLAND, Calif., Sept. 28 /PRNewswire/ -- Forte Software, Inc.
(Nasdaq: FRTE) today announced that Olsten Health Services, the nationwide
leader in the home health industry, has successfully deployed two business-
critical applications developed using the Forte Application Environment(TM)
and Forte Express(TM). The applications, Master Patient Index (MPI) and
Order Entry Material Management (OEMM), demonstrate Forte(R)'s ability to
integrate with an array of Forte and non-Forte applications.
        Olsten needed to implement a reliable, high-performance tracking
mechanism to meet the controlled substance tracking and audit requirements
of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Food and Drug Administration
(FDA). By coordinating patient indexes among its different systems,
Olsten's new Forte- based applications are able to issue as many as 600
customer bills per day, up from 25 with its previous system. This improves
company cashflow and fiscal management.
        Deployed at Olsten's Specialty Solutions facility in Fort Worth,
Tex., MPI cross-references patient indexes and securely transports vital
information among Forte and several non-Forte applications, including
Patient Registration, Pharmacy Prescription Management, Pharmacy
Distribution Network, Billing and Accounts Receivable, Inventory, and Order
Entry.
        OEMM processes orders from wholesalers, pharmacy chains and the
wholesale physician's network. It also performs inventory management, ·
receiving, returns, tracking, purchase orders, and order replenishment.
        "We were looking for a tool that would give us excellent
performance," said Paul Salmon, Olsten's director of Information Systems.
"During our evaluation process, Forte outperformed all of its competitors."
        MPI and OEMM were developed to address Olsten's Specialty Solutions
Group's (formerly Quantum Health Resources) need to replace a two-tier
client/server system and a character-based SCO UNIX system. After
evaluating eight application development tools, Olsten chose Forte because

it was the only solution that could help Olsten meet its business goals. In addition, Forte was selected for its openness, superior performance, multi-tier architecture, and flexibility. NEXGEN SI, of Irvine, Calif., provided Forte expertise and assisted with development.

"Both the Forte product and organization have met all of our expectations," said Salmon. "We were able to deliver our first two applications on time and within budget."

About Olsten Health Services

Based in Melville, N.Y., Olsten Health Services is the nationwide leader in the home health industry with revenues of nearly $2 billion. Through its network of 100,000 caregivers operating from nearly 600 locations in North America, Olsten provides home healthcare services to approximately 485,000 patients and clients each year. In 1996, Olsten Health Services greatly expanded its resources and capabilities with the acquisition of Quantum Health Resources of Orange, Calif. For additional information visit www.olstenhealth.com.

About Forte Software, Inc.

Forte Software, Inc. is a pioneer in advanced development and integration software for scalable distributed applications. IT organizations, systems integrators and independent software vendors use the Forte product family as their application environment to more efficiently build, integrate, deploy, and manage powerful business solutions that run on the Internet and enterprise networks. Forte technology is used as the foundation for 80 application packages, and Forte products are marketed worldwide through direct operations, subsidiaries, distributors, and value-added resellers. For additional information, contact Forte Software at info@forte.com or www.forte.com.

Forte Software provides solutions for Apple (Nasdaq: AAPL), Data General (NYSE: DGN), Digital, HP (NYSE: HWP), IBM (NYSE: IBM), Informix (Nasdaq: IFMX), Ingres (NYSE: CA), Microsoft (Nasdaq: MSFT), Netscape (Nasdaq: NSCP), Oracle (Nasdaq: ORCL), Sequent (Nasdaq: SQNT), Siemens Nixdorf, Sybase (Nasdaq: SYBS), and Sun (Nasdaq: SUNW).

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1781647/9 <u>Links</u>
Business & Industry(R)

01781647 Supplier Number: 24543917 **(THIS IS THE FULLTEXT)**
CSN postpones building projects
(Cia Siderurgica Nacional postpones its three biggest investment projects until the value of the currency stabilizes)

TEXT:

By MICHAEL KEPP

RIO DE JANEIRO -- Cia Siderurgica Nacional (CSN), Brazil's biggest steelmaker, has postponed for 60 to 90 days its three biggest investment projects--a mini-mill and two cold-rolling and galvanizing lines--until the value of the volatile local currency stabilizes, CSN said earlier this week.

CSN has postponed all work on:

* The $500-million, 1.2-million-tonne-a-year Cia Siderurgica do Ceara (CSC) mini-mill in northeastern Ceara state.
The first phase of the CSC plant includes a $350-million investment to build a melt shop, thin-slab caster and 1.2-million-tonne strip mill.

* The CISA joint venture with Mexican steelmaker Imsa Acero SA de CV to build a $300-million, 450,000-tonne-per-year cold-rolling and galvanizing mill in southern Parana state to serve the automotive sector.

* The $250-million, 350,000-tonne-a-year Galva-Sud hot-dip galvanizing line and production center for automotive blanks in southeastern Rio de Janeiro with German partner Thyssen Krupp Stahl AG.

All three plants had been scheduled for start-up during 2001.

"CSN can't move forward on its plans to build the CSC, CISA or GalvaSud

mills until it has a better idea of the price to pay for mostly imported plant equipment," a CSN spokeswoman said.

"For the time being, the unstable currency doesn't allow us to get an accurate idea of what that equipment will cost. We believe that in 60 to 90 days the currency will stabilize and allow us to more accurately assess equipment costs, thus allowing us to pick up where we left off on those three projects."

The government, to stem a massive increase in capital flight--$8.3 billion left Brazil in January alone--allowed the overvalued, fixed-exchange-rate currency, the real, to float against the dollar, causing a 60-percent currency devaluation since then. But the dollar-real exchange rate fluctuates greatly from day to day because the market has not yet determined what the exchange rate should be.

As a result, many companies, especially those that export and import goods (CSN is planning to import equipment) are waiting for the exchange rate to stabilize before firming up contracts.

The devaluation of the real will make all imported goods, including any equipment CSN buys, more expensive, as their prices are dollar-based.

Company Names: CIA SIDERURGICA NACIONAL
Industry Names: Metals
Product Names: Blast furnaces and basic steel products (331000)
Concept Terms: All market information; Capacity
Geographic Names: Brazil (BRA); Latin America (LAMX); South & Central America (SOCX)

6377923/9 <u>Links</u>
Fulltext available through: <u>USPTO Full Text Retrieval Options</u>
INSPEC

Title: A multifunctional programmable spectrometer-dosimeter

Author Mineev, Yu.V.; Trofimov, P.N.; Elizarov, S.V.
Author Affiliation: Inst. of Nucl. Phys., Moscow State Univ., Russia

Language: English   **Document Type:** Journal Paper (JP)
Treatment: Practical (P); Experimental (X)
Abstract: A multifunctional programmable spectrometer-dosimeter unit based on semiconductor detectors was designed for the simultaneous and separate detection of alpha - and beta -particles and gamma -quanta. The unit can measure spectral characteristics and dose of each type of radiation as well as the total dose. In prompt-analysis mode, it can assess radiation in the environment under field conditions. In the laboratory, it can be linked to a PC to evaluate the radiation in a greater detail. (9 Refs)
 Subfile: A B C
Descriptors: alpha-particle detection; alpha-particle spectrometers; beta-ray detection; beta-ray spectrometers; dosimeters; gamma-ray detection; gamma-ray spectrometers; high energy physics instrumentation computing; silicon radiation detectors; spectroscopy computing
Identifiers: multifunctional programmable spectrometer-dosimeter; semiconductor detectors; simultaneous separate detection; beta -particles; alpha -particles; gamma -quanta; spectral characteristics; total dose; prompt-analysis mode; field conditions; environment radiation; PC linked; thick detector; large-area detectors; efficiency; sensitivity
Class Codes: A8760M (Radiation dosimetry); A2880C (Dosimetry); A2940P (Semiconductor detectors); A2930E (alpha-ray spectroscopy); A2930F (Beta-ray and electron spectroscopy); A2930K (X- and gamma-ray spectroscopy); B7530B (Radiation protection and dosimetry); B7420 (Particle and radiation detection and measurement); B7440 (Particle spectrometers); B7210B (Automatic test and measurement systems); C7320 (Physics and chemistry computing); C7410H (Computerised instrumentation); C7330 (Biology and medical computing)

08538634   **Supplier Number:** 18035478 (THIS IS THE FULL TEXT)
M.D. dispensing goes on-line, opening new links to R.Ph.s. (Physician Dispensing Systems merger with Allscrips Pharmaceuticals)

Abstract: The merger between Allscrips Pharmaceuticals and Physician Dispensing Systems marks the beginning of a trend in pharmacy-physician collaborative efforts. This use of new on-line software, such as All-Rx, allows physicians to conduct drug utilization reviews, ensure formulary compliance and process claims before orders are sent. It also facilitates on-line communication between physicians and pharmacy benefit managers, community health and information networks, medical records networks, and physician billing and practice management systems. The technology reduces administrative work for pharmacists.

Text:

Behind the recent merger between Allscrips Pharmaceuticals and Physician Dispensing Systems is the belief that physicians who dispense medications have to get on-line with third-party organizations.

As physicians acquaint themselves with increasingly sophisticated communications technology, they may well find themselves interacting with community pharmacies in new ways, explained Brian Ward, v.p., pharmacy services of Allscrips Pharmaceuticals, Vetnon Hills, Ill. Physicians will be able to conduct drug utilization reviews (DURs) and ensure formulary compliance before they send a long-term prescription order, on-line, to a pharmacy, he said.
Although Allscrips Pharmaceuticals provides pharmacy benefit management services, it is best known as a supplier of prepackaged oral pharmaceuticals for physicians who dispense directly what they prescribe. Allscrips also distributes medications through its mail-order facility and its network of 35,000 community pharmacies. The company has software that enables physicians to conduct DURs, and other software, called Kwik-Claim, to process third-party drug claims.
Physician Dispensing Systems has developed a more sophisticated

on-line software, All-Rx. This system allows physicians to communicate with other pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), medical records networks, physician billing and practice management systems, community health information networks (CHINs), and other health-care information systems.

All-Rx allows physicians to process claims, conduct DURs, and review health plans' formularies to guide them in their prescribing. It also lets physicians send Rx orders on-line to community pharmacists.

The software can benefit pharmacists insofar as it eliminates their usual administrative hassles: dealing with prescriptions that present DUR problems or that are not on a health plan's formulary. If physicians prescribe drugs from an on-line formulary and conduct DURs before sending the prescription orders to pharmacists, much time can be saved behind the counter.

Allscrips has formed a distribution agreement with Integrated Medical Systems, in which IMS will offer Allscrips' information system as an add-on service for its own on-line physician networks. IMS is owned by drug manufacturer Eli Lilly & Co., Indianapolis, which also owns the pharmacy benefit manager PCS Health Systems.

Allscrips is now approaching various PBMs about providing its client physicians with access to their claims programs, Ward said. Allscrips would like PBMs to make their formularies available on-line to physicians, to enable physicians to prescribe drugs as patients' health plans desire.

Although physician dispensing has not seriously cut into community pharmacists' business, as pharmacists once feared, the practice has continued to expand. Ward noted that Allscrips serviced about 2,000 physicians' offices five years ago, and now the number of offices has grown to 4,100, representing approximately 15,000 physicians. The company said that less than 1% of all prescriptions filled in this country are filled in the physician's office.

Physician dispensing makes the most sense in special practices, he said. These include urgent-care centers, occupational health centers, factory clinics, pediatric practices, and rural locations where a community pharmacy may not be readily available. Psychiatric centers are another practical setting, because many patients who need psychiatric drugs may feel highly embarrassed about getting their prescriptions filled at their local community pharmacy, he noted.

The purpose of physician dispensing is to provide immediate short-term care to patients who need certain categories of drugs, he explained. It is not a service typically geared to handle long-term therapy, Ward pointed out. This means there is an opportunity for physicians and community pharmacies to work together.

After physicians provide patients with an initial supply of a medication, they can send the Rx to a community pharmacist electronically to handle refills. This addresses the problem of patients never getting their initial prescription filled--or failing to arrange for refills. Community pharmacists can take on the job of monitoring patients' drug therapy, he added.

Ward noted that Allscrips has already initiated business discussions with an unspecified number of drugstore chains to explore how a collaborative pharmacy-physician program could be achieved. The effort underscores moves by several other managed care service organizations to achieve the same goal.

acquisition of Quantum Health Resources of Orange, Calif. For additional
information visit www.olstenhealth.com.

About Forte Software, Inc.

Forte Software, Inc. is a pioneer in advanced development and
integration software for scalable distributed applications. IT
organizations, systems integrators and independent software vendors use the
Forte product family as their application environment to more efficiently
build, integrate, deploy, and manage powerful business solutions that run
on the Internet and enterprise networks. Forte technology is used as the
foundation for 80 application packages, and Forte products are marketed
worldwide through direct operations, subsidiaries, distributors, and
value-added resellers. For additional information, contact Forte Software
at info@forte.com or www.forte.com.

Forte Software provides solutions for Apple (Nasdaq: AAPL), Data
General (NYSE: DGN), Digital, HP (NYSE: HWP), IBM (NYSE: IBM), Informix
(Nasdaq: IFMX), Ingres (NYSE: CA), Microsoft (Nasdaq: MSFT), Netscape
(Nasdaq: NSCP), Oracle (Nasdaq: ORCL), Sequent (Nasdaq: SQNT), Siemens
Nixdorf, Sybase (Nasdaq: SYBS), and Sun (Nasdaq: SUNW).

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 05869287/9 **Links**
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05869287   **Supplier Number: 53026368 (THIS IS THE FULLTEXT)**

Leading Home Healthcare Provider Uses Forte to Build and Integrate Applications to Support Business Growth.
PR Newswire , p 8795
Sept 28 , 1998
Language: English   **Record Type:** Fulltext
Document Type: Newswire ; Trade
Word Count: 610

Text:

Olsten Health Services' New System Improves

Divisions' Efficiency and Cashflow

OAKLAND, Calif., Sept. 28 /PRNewswire/ -- Forte Software, Inc.
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evaluating eight application development tools, Olsten chose Forte because
it was the only solution that could help Olsten meet its business goals. In
addition, Forte was selected for its openness, superior performance,
multi-tier architecture, and flexibility. NEXGEN SI, of Irvine, Calif.,
provided Forte expertise and assisted with development.

"Both the Forte product and organization have met all of our
expectations," said Salmon. "We were able to deliver our first two
applications on time and within budget."

About Olsten Health Services

Based in Melville, N.Y., Olsten Health Services is the nationwide
leader in the home health industry with revenues of nearly $2 billion.
Through its network of 100,000 caregivers operating from nearly 600
locations in North America, Olsten provides home healthcare services to
approximately 485,000 patients and clients each year. In 1996, Olsten
Health Services greatly expanded its resources and capabilities with the

? t 08538634/full

08538634/9 <u>Links</u>
08538634   **Supplier Number:** 18035478 (THIS IS THE FULL TEXT)
M.D. dispensing goes on-line, opening new links to R.Ph.s. (Physician Dispensing Systems merger with Allscrips Pharmaceuticals)

Muirhead, Greg
Drug Topics , v140 , n4 , p67(1)
Feb 19 , 1996
ISSN: 0012-6616
Language: English
Record Type: Fulltext; Abstract
Word Count: 704   **Line Count:** 00064

Abstract: The merger between Allscrips Pharmaceuticals and Physician Dispensing Systems marks the beginning of a trend in pharmacy-physician collaborative efforts. This use of new on-line software, such as All-Rx, allows physicians to conduct drug utilization reviews, ensure formulary compliance and process claims before orders are sent. It also facilitates on-line communication between physicians and pharmacy benefit managers, community health and information networks, medical records networks, and physician billing and practice management systems. The technology reduces administrative work for pharmacists.

Text:

Behind the recent merger between Allscrips Pharmaceuticals and Physician
Dispensing Systems is the belief that physicians who dispense medications
have to get on-line with third-party organizations.

As physicians acquaint themselves with increasingly sophisticated
communications technology, they may well find themselves interacting with
community pharmacies in new ways, explained Brian Ward, v.p., pharmacy
services of Allscrips Pharmaceuticals, Vetnon Hills, Ill. Physicians will
be able to conduct drug utilization reviews (DURs) and ensure formulary

compliance before they send a long-term prescription order, on-line, to a pharmacy, he said.

Although Allscrips Pharmaceuticals provides ·pharmacy benefit management services, it is best known as a supplier of prepackaged oral pharmaceuticals for physicians who dispense directly what they prescribe. Allscrips also distributes medications through its mail-order facility and its network of 35,000 community pharmacies. The company has software that enables physicians to conduct DURs, and other software, called Kwik-Claim, to process third-party drug claims.

Physician Dispensing Systems has developed a more sophisticated on-line software, All-Rx. This system allows physicians to communicate with other pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), medical records networks, physician billing and practice management systems, community health information networks (CHINs), and other health-care information systems.

All-Rx allows physicians to process claims, conduct DURs, and review health plans' formularies to guide them in their prescribing. It also lets physicians send Rx orders on-line to community pharmacists.

The software can benefit pharmacists insofar as it eliminates their usual administrative hassles: dealing with prescriptions that present DUR problems or that are not on a health plan's formulary. If physicians prescribe drugs from an on-line formulary and conduct DURs before sending the prescription orders to pharmacists, much time can be saved behind the counter.

Allscrips has formed a distribution agreement with Integrated Medical Systems, in which IMS will offer Allscrips' information system as an add-on service for its own on-line physician networks. IMS is owned by drug manufacturer Eli Lilly & Co., Indianapolis, which also owns the pharmacy benefit manager PCS Health Systems.

Allscrips is now approaching various PBMs about providing its client physicians with access to their claims programs, Ward said. Allscrips would like PBMs to make their formularies available on-line to physicians, to enable physicians to prescribe drugs as patients' health plans desire.

Although physician dispensing has not seriously cut into community pharmacists' business, as pharmacists once feared, the practice has continued to expand. Ward noted that Allscrips serviced about 2,000 physicians' offices five years ago, and now the number of offices has grown to 4,100, representing approximately 15,000 physicians. The company said that less than 1% of all prescriptions filled in this country are filled in the physician's office.

Physician dispensing makes the most sense in special practices, he said. These include urgent-care centers, occupational health centers, factory clinics, pediatric practices, and rural locations where a community pharmacy may not be readily available. Psychiatric centers are another practical setting, because many patients who need psychiatric drugs may feel highly embarrassed about getting their prescriptions filled at their local community pharmacy, he noted.

The purpose of physician dispensing is to provide immediate short-term care to patients who need certain categories of drugs, he explained. It is not a service typically geared to handle long-term therapy, Ward pointed out. This means there is an opportunity for physicians and community pharmacies to work together.

After physicians provide patients with an initial supply of a medication, they can send the Rx to a community pharmacist electronically to handle refills·. This addresses the problem of patients never getting

their initial prescription filled--or failing to arrange for refills.
Community pharmacists can take on the job of monitoring patients' drug
therapy, he added.

     Ward noted that Allscrips has already initiated business discussions
with an unspecified number of drugstore chains to explore how a
collaborative pharmacy-physician program could be achieved. The effort
underscores moves by several other managed care service organizations to
achieve the same goal.

Special Features: illustration; photograph
Industry Codes/Names: DRUG Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics
Descriptors: Pharmaceutical services--Computer programs; Healthcare industry--Computer programs; Computer software industry--Health aspects; Drugs--Prescribing
Product/Industry Names: 7372000 (Computer Software); 2834010 (Ethical Preparations)
Product/Industry Names: 7372 Prepackaged software; 2834 Pharmaceutical preparations
File Segment: TI File 148

? b 256

? t 00115229/full
Accession number 115229 is unavailable

? b 2

? t 6377923/full

6377923/9 **Links**
  Fulltext available through: USPTO Full Text Retrieval Options
INSPEC
06377923 **INSPEC Abstract Number:** A9621-8760M-023, B9611-7530B-017, C9611-7320-014
Title: A multifunctional programmable spectrometer-dosimeter
Author Mineev, Yu.V.; Trofimov, P.N.; Elizarov, S.V.
Author Affiliation: Inst. of Nucl. Phys., Moscow State Univ., Russia
Journal: Pribory i Tekhnika Eksperimenta   vol.39, no.2   p. 134-7
Publisher: Plenum ,
Publication Date: March-April 1996 **Country of Publication:** Russia
CODEN: PRTEAJ ISSN: 0032-8162
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SICI of Translation: 0020-4412(199603/04)39:2L.282:MPSD;1-8
U.S. Copyright Clearance Center Code: 0020-4412/96/3902-0282$15.00

Language: English   **Document Type:** Journal Paper (JP)
Treatment: Practical (P); Experimental (X)
Abstract: A multifunctional programmable spectrometer-dosimeter unit based on semiconductor detectors was designed for the simultaneous and separate detection of alpha - and beta -particles and gamma -quanta. The unit can measure spectral characteristics and dose of each type of radiation as well as the total dose. In prompt-analysis mode, it can assess radiation in the environment under field conditions. In the laboratory, it can be linked to a PC to evaluate the radiation in a greater detail. (9 Refs)
  Subfile: A B C

Descriptors: alpha-particle detection; alpha-particle spectrometers; beta-ray detection; beta-ray spectrometers; dosimeters; gamma-ray detection; gamma-ray spectrometers; high energy physics instrumentation computing; silicon radiation detectors; spectroscopy computing

Identifiers: multifunctional programmable spectrometer-dosimeter; semiconductor detectors; simultaneous separate detection; beta -particles; alpha -particles; gamma -quanta; spectral characteristics; total dose; prompt-analysis mode; field conditions; environment radiation; PC linked; thick detector; large-area detectors; efficiency; sensitivity

Class Codes: A8760M (Radiation dosimetry); A2880C (Dosimetry); A2940P (Semiconductor detectors); A2930E (alpha-ray spectroscopy); A2930F (Beta-ray and electron spectroscopy); A2930K (X- and gamma-ray spectroscopy); B7530B (Radiation protection and dosimetry); B7420 (Particle and radiation detection and measurement); B7440 (Particle spectrometers); B7210B (Automatic test and measurement systems); C7320 (Physics and chemistry computing); C7410H (Computerised instrumentation); C7330 (Biology and medical computing)

? b 9

[File 9] **Business & Industry(R)** Jul/1994-2006/Apr 05

? t 1781647/full

1781647/9 <u>Links</u>
Business & Industry(R)
01781647 Supplier Number: 24543917 **(THIS IS THE FULLTEXT)**
CSN postpones building projects
(Cia Siderurgica Nacional postpones its three biggest investment projects until the value of the currency stabilizes)

American Metal Market , v 107 , n 29 , p 2
February 12, 1999
Document Type: Journal **ISSN:** 0002-9998 (United States)
Language: English **Record Type:** Fulltext
Word Count: 344

TEXT:

By MICHAEL KEPP

RIO DE JANEIRO -- Cia Siderurgica Nacional (CSN), Brazil's biggest
steelmaker, has postponed for 60 to 90 days its three biggest investment
projects--a mini-mill and two cold-rolling and galvanizing lines--until the
value of the volatile local currency stabilizes, CSN said earlier this
week.

CSN has postponed all work on:

* The $500-million, 1.2-million-tonne-a-year Cia Siderurgica do Ceara (CSC)
mini-mill in northeastern Ceara state.
The first phase of the CSC plant includes a $350-million investment to
build a melt shop, thin-slab caster and 1.2-million-tonne strip mill.

* The CISA joint venture with Mexican steelmaker Imsa Acero SA de CV to

build a $300-million, 450,000-tonne-per-year cold-rolling and galvanizing mill in southern Parana state to serve the automotive sector.

* The $250-million, 350,000-tonne-a-year Galva-Sud hot-dip galvanizing line and production center for automotive blanks in southeastern Rio de Janeiro with German partner Thyssen Krupp Stahl AG.

All three plants had been scheduled for start-up during 2001.

"CSN can't move forward on its plans to build the CSC, CISA or GalvaSud mills until it has a better idea of the price to pay for mostly imported plant equipment," a CSN spokeswoman said.

"For the time being, the unstable currency doesn't allow us to get an accurate idea of what that equipment will cost. We believe that in 60 to 90 days the currency will stabilize and allow us to more accurately assess equipment costs, thus allowing us to pick up where we left off on those three projects."

The government, to stem a massive increase in capital flight--$8.3 billion left Brazil in January alone--allowed the overvalued, fixed-exchange-rate currency, the real, to float against the dollar, causing a 60-percent currency devaluation since then. But the dollar-real exchange rate fluctuates greatly from day to day because the market has not yet determined what the exchange rate should be.

As a result, many companies, especially those that export and import goods (CSN is planning to import equipment) are waiting for the exchange rate to stabilize before firming up contracts.

The devaluation of the real will make all imported goods, including any equipment CSN buys, more expensive, as their prices are dollar-based.

Company Names: CIA SIDERURGICA NACIONAL
Industry Names: Metals
Product Names: Blast furnaces and basic steel products (331000)
Concept Terms: All market information; Capacity
Geographic Names: Brazil (BRA); Latin America (LAMX); South & Central America (SOCX)